

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 25 EA PRESS SUMMARY

### 1. INDOCHINA

HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVE 3.6 BILLION DOL FOREIGN AID

BILL FOR FY 75. ADMIN REQUEST FOR 522 MILLION IN

EXTRA AID FOR CAMBODIA AND SVN LEFT OUT TO SOFTEN

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OPPOSITION, STILL PENDING IN HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

(UPI, NYDN). BILL INCLUDES 440 MILLION FOR POSTWAR

INDOCHINA AID (NYT SPECIAL). BILL IS 2.27 BILLION

LESS THAN ADMIN REQUEST, BIGGEST CUT EVER BY CONGRESS

IN FOREIGN AID. PASSED HOUSE BY NARROW 193-185 VOTE, WENT THROUGH SENATE ON VOICE VOTE WITH ONLY FEW SENATORS PRESENT (RUSSELL, WP).

DOD SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES CARRIER HANCOCK DUE IN HAWAII TO PICK UP MARINE COPTER SQUADRON AND WOULD LEAVE LATER THIS WEEK FOR WESTERN PACIFIC. PENTAGON SOURCES SAY CARRIER GOING TO WATERS OFF INDOCHINA IN CASE NEED EVACUATE AMERICANS AND OTHERS. INDICATIONS ARE HANCOCK WILL TAKE POSITION OFF CAMBODIA; COPTER CARRIER OKINAWA WITH 1500 MARINES HAS BEEN WAITING IN GULF OF THAILAND FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION (AP, NYDN). INFORMED

SOURCES SAY HANCOCK WILL GO FROM HAWAII TO SUBIC BEFORE JOINING OKINAWA. CARRIER HAS FIGHTER PLANES AS WELL AS CHOPPERS. DOD SPOKESMAN DECLINED DISCUSS EVACUATION POSSIBILITY (WILSON, WP).

WP'S FENTON IN PP REPORTS RESUMPTION OF AIRLIFT DESPITE EARLIER SPECULATION THAT WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER FANK OPERATION TO CLEAR "ROCKET BELT" HAD MET WITH SOME SUCCESS. SAYS SITUATION NEAR AIRPORT BECOMING WORSE, WITH INSURGENT GAINS AND REPORTS GKR COMMANDER OF OPERATION FACES COURT-MARTIAL FOR RETREATING WITHOUT ORDERS. NYT'S ANDELMAN IN PP QUOTES US OFFICIALS THAT RESUMING AIRLIFT "CALCULATED GAMBLE" SINCE MIL SITUATION NEAR AIRPORT HAD NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. NOTES REBELS HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE FINDING AIRPORT RANGE AND WORKERS SAY PURELY CHANCE NO PLANES HIT. SOME REPORTS IN PP STATE AIRLIFT SUSPENSION WAS TO DEGREE AIMED AT INCREASING PRESSURE ON FANK TO MAKE DETERMINED PUSH CLEAN OUT REBEL POSITIONS NEAR POCHENTONG. QUOTES OBSERVERS THAT GKR FORCES "POSED NO THREAT" TO REBEL ROCKET POSITIONS. LAT'S LESLIE IN PP (3/23) OPINES PROLONGED AIRLIFT SUSPENSION WOULD NOT CREATE IMMEDIATE MIL PROBLEMS FOR PP TROOPS, BUT WOULD BE MAJOR PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW AT TIME WHEN GKR "WOBBLING."  
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DOD SAYS AIRLIFT BEING EXTENDED ANOTHER MONTH, USING 8 MILLION DOLS IN AID FUNDS (REUTER, NYT).

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN PP CONTRASTS RAGGED FRONT-LINE TROOPS WITH WELL-TURNED-OUT DESK SOLDIERS; REPORTS SAK SUTSAKHAN SAID LOOKING FOR WAYS GIVE FRONT LINES MORE SUPPORT. REFORMS HAVE BEEN MUCH TALKED ABOUT BEFORE, BUT PP COMMAND IN PAST DISPLAYED LACK OF URGENCY. FEB EFFORT TO SEND REAR-SERVICE MEN TO FRONT AS REPLACEMENTS MET WITH MANY DESERTIONS. NOTES LARGE NUMBER OF GENERALS, ALL WITH RETAINERS AND HANGERS-ON. SOME KHMERS CONVINCED CORRUPTION WILL BE KEY FACTOR IN WHAT THEY SEE AS INEVITABLE GKR DEFEAT. WHAT AMAZES

SOME OBSERVERS IS THAT ANY SOLDIERS CONTINUE FIGHT, AND SOME FIGHT WELL. HOPE EXISTS THAT SAK SUTSAKHAN WILL RAPIDLY REFORM ARMY AND GIVE IT VIGOR; BUT MANY SEE LON NOL AND ENTOURAGE AS OBSTACLE.

NEW CABINET SWORN IN AT PP AS LONG BORET DELIVERS PLEA FOR PEACE, UNITY AMONG KHMERS. PREMIER SAID GKR INTENDS CONVINCE GREAT POWERS HELP IN FINDING POLITICAL SOLUTION, BUT DID NOT SPELL OUT HOW GOVT INTENDED DO THIS AND POLITICIANS DID NOT TAKE PLEDGE SERIOUSLY (ANDELMAN, NYT). OBSERVERS UNIMPRESSED BY NEW CABINET BEING PRESENTED

AS SIGN OF GKR WILLINGNESS NEGOTIATE END TO WAR. ABOUT ONE-THIRD NAT'L ASSEMBLY STAYED AWAY TO PROTEST LON NOL'S CONTINUED LEADERSHIP, AS CABINET PRESENTED PLEDGE OF NEW OFFENSIVE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPPLY LINES (FENTON).

REBEL FORCES OVERRAN TUOL LEAP, KEY BASE 6 MILES N OF POCHENTONG AS AIRLIFT RESUMES. ROCKETS STRIKE AIRPORT AREA. INSURGENTS HIT GKR POSITION 18 MILES W OF PP (UPI, NYDN; AP, SUN). ROCKETS CONTINUE HIT PP. REBELS OCCUPY 10-MILE SECTION OF ROAD BETWEEN CAPITAL AND KONPONG SPEU TO SW, ACCORDING FIELD REPORTS (FENTON, WP). WESTERN MIL OBSERVERS REPORT LESSENING OF PRESSURE AROUND MAJOR ENCIRCLED PROV CAPITALS AND ON MEKONG E BANK (ANDELMAN, NYT).

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LAT'S LESLIE (3/24) IN PP DESCRIBES PLIGHT OF REFUGEES AS MALNUTRITION STRIKES MORE AND VOLAGS STRUGGLE WITH PROBLEMS. NOTES FRIGHTENING PHENOMENON OBSERVED BY DOCTORS IN APPARENT DECISION BY SOME FAMILIES LET ONE CHILD DIE SO OTHERS MAY LIVE.

MAINICHI REPORTS THIEU ESCAPED UNHARMED FROM ASSASSINATION TRY SUNDAY WHEN HIGH-RANKING OFFICER ATTACKED. AIDES THWARTED ATTEMPT, ARRESTED UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANT. ATTACK REPORTEDLY LINKED WITH RECENT HIGHLANDS WITHDRAWAL DECISION (REUTER, GLOBE).

IN FIRST SUCH CALL SINCE NVA OFFENSIVE STARTED THIS MONTH, OPPOSITION GROUP, PREDOMINENTLY BUDDHIST NATL RECONCILIATION FORCES, URGES THIEU RESIGN, CITING MIL SETBACKS AS REASON (AP NYT, WP). SEN MAU SPOKE FOR GROUP AT NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID THIEU HAS LOST MORE LAND RECENTLY THAN IN PAST 20 YEARS, ASKED HOW MANY MORE SURPRISES FOR VIET PEOPLE TO PROTECT MILITARY (AP, SUN).

COMMUNIST TROOPS TAKE QUANG TIN PROV CAPITAL (CSM). NVA OFFENSIVE CHOPS SVN IN TWO AS QUANG TIN FALLS. PROV CAPITAL, TAM KY, LOST AFTER SURPRISE 4-HR BLITZKRIEG

BY ARMOR, ARTILLERY, INFANTRY AGAINST POORLY-TRAINED MILITIA. QUANG NGAI CAPITAL ISOLATED, UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE. HUE DEFENSES CRUMBLE UNDER ONSLAUGHT. COMMUNIST TANKS SPOTTED IN DELTA FIRST TIME. REFUGEES FLEEING NORTHERN PROVS AND CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CAME UNDER COMMUNIST FIRE. GVN DEPLOYS EXTRA TROOPS ALONG ARC 15 MILES N OF SAIGON AS THREAT TO CAPITAL INCREASES (UPI, NYDN). WESTERN DIPLOMATS REPORT GVN TROOPS ABANDONING HUE (AP, WP).  
SUN'S ISAACS AT DA NANG REPORTS MIL SITUATION WORSENING WITH QUANG TIN LOSS AND ATTACK ON QUANG NGAI; PROVS MORE POPULOUS THAN ANY LOST OR GIVEN UP SO FAR. GVN PRESENCE IN I CORPS LIMITED TO ENCLAVE AROUND DA NANG IF HUE AND QUANG NGAI FALL, AS EXPECTED. PEOPLE WORRIED DA NANG WILL BECOME "NEW DMZ" UNDER CONSTANT SHELLING.

WP'S MCCOMBS/OBERDORFER AT SAIGON SAY UNRAVELLING OF GVN DEFENSES IN NORTH CAUSES MAJOR CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND EVERYONE SURPRISED OR SHOCKED BY NVA POWER, RESOURCES. MOOD AMONG MILITARY REPORTEDLY "VERY UGLY" OVER LOSSES. QUOTE THIEU'S VIEW OF HUE BATTLE, THAT IF TOO COSTLY, EXPENDABLE. VIET MIL OBSERVER SAYS THIEU HAS BEEN MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING ANYONE, BUT SOME OBSERVERS THINK DISSATISFACTION WITH THIEU COULD SUBSIDE INTO UNDERSTANDING HE MADE BEST POSSIBLE STRATEGIC CHOICES, GIVEN COMMUNIST POWER AND REDUCED GVN CAPABILITIES AS RESULT US AID CUTS. CONCLUDE FUTURE DEPENDS ON GVN STOPPING ROLLBACK OF POSITIONS.

NYT'S WEINRAUB IN SAIGON REPORTS WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATS DESCRIBE RUMOR OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST THIEU AS "NONSENSE." SOME INTELL OFFICERS BELIEVE ATTACK ON SAIGON MAY BE NEXT, WHILE OTHERS BELIEVE NVA NOW RETRENCHING, CAREFULLY REASSESSING STRATEGY. NOTES COMMUNISTS OCCUPY 9 PROVS, ARE EXPECTED TAKE SEVERAL MORE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. GVN ANNOUNCED RECENT ACTION PRODUCED OVER 900,000 REFUGEES.

GVN APPEALS FOR REFUGEE AID. DEP PREMIER DAN TOLD NEWSMEN US, SK, TAIWAN AND PHILS ASKED FOR TRANSPORT HELP, MAINLY SHIPS. GVN COMMAND ANNOUNCED FERRY FROM HUE CARRYING 100 REFUGEES CAPSIZED IN HEAVY SEAS, HALF DROWNED (AP, SUN). NYT'S BROWNE AT DA NANG DESCRIBES REFUGEE HORDES CONVERGING ON CITY AND GVN EFFORTS TO MOVE THEM. LAT'S MCARTHUR AND JAMESON IN SAIGON (GLOBE) REPORT US POSSIBLY ON VERGE STARTING AIRLIFT FROM DA NANG TO REMOVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES TO CENTRAL COAST PROVS, SAIGON AND OTHER AREAS. WP' OBERDORFER SAYS GVN PLANS RESETTLE UP TO 2 MILLION REFUGEES FROM CURRENT COMMUNIST

OFFENSIVE IN NEW HOMES ON UNTILLED OR RECLAIMED LAND  
IN SVN'S CENTER. ESTIMATES RESETTLEMENT MAY COST  
100-150 DOLS PER PERSON.

2. CHINA

NCNA SAYS FORMER NATIONALIST GENERALS HUANG WEI AND  
WEN CHIANG, IMPRISONED "WAR CRIMINALS," HAVE BEEN  
FREED (WP).  
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EXHIBITION OF BRITISH MACHINE TOOLS, SCIENTIFIC  
INSTRUMENTS OPENS IN SHANGHAI. LARGEST SO FAR STAGED  
IN PRC BY FOREIGN COUNTRY, EXHIBITION INTENDED AS  
FIRST OF SPECIALIZED SHOWS TO BE MOUNTED IN CHINA  
BY UK. JOC DISPATCH REPORTS SHANGHAI BUSINESSMEN,  
OFFICIALS VOICE IMPRESSION PRC BEING MORE SELECTIVE  
ABOUT ITS IMPORTS THIS YEAR, MAINLY BECAUSE OF  
WIDELY-PUBLICIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE SHORTAGE. CHINESE  
BELIEVED STRONGLY INTERESTED IN EMI BRAIN SCANNER MODEL  
IN SHANGHAI EXHIBITION.

3. JAPAN

NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO (MAR 23) NOTES AMB HODGSON  
SPEECH LAST MONDAY AT YOMIURI INTL ECONOMIC SOCIETY  
AIMED AT JAPANESE PRESS, ACCORDING AIDES, TO CORRECT  
IMPRESSION REPORTED THAT US PURSUES "EXCLUSIVELY  
NATIONALISTIC ENERGY POLICIES." QUOTES HODGSON SAYING  
US FULLY RECOGNIZES "FLEXIBILITY AND SENSITIVITY  
TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS" ESSENTIAL IN INTERDEPENDENT  
WORLD.

UPI (TOKYO) SAYS TREZISE TOLD US-JAPAN TRADE COUNCIL  
SEMINAR MONDAY WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS MANAGABLE; EVEN  
"MODEST IMPROVEMENT" IN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE COULD  
RAISE FOOD OUTPUT IN LDCS ENORMOUSLY, BUT ONLY RESULT  
IF ADVANCED COUNTRIES TRIMMED FOOD CONSUMPTION WOULD  
BE FALL IN PRICE THAT DISCOURAGES PRODUCTION (JOC).

WSJ (TOKYO) NOTES HONDA PLANS OFFER 25 MILLION DOLS  
BOND ISSUE IN ARAB OIL NATIONS NEXT MONTH TO HELP  
FINANCE CAPITAL SPENDING. ADDS KUBOTA EARLIER SOLD  
15 MILLION DOLS IN CONVERTIBLE BONDS IN KUWAIT.

JOC (TOKYO) CITES SECURITIES INDUSTRY SOURCES THAT  
MAJOR JAPANESE FIRMS EXPECT FLOAT MORE THAN 7 BILLION  
DOLS IN BONDS OVER NEXT 12 MONTHS. NOTES BOND MARKET  
MORE ATTRACTIVE TO CORPORATE EXECS WHO CONVINCED BANK  
OF JAPAN WILL KEEP BASIC TIGHT-MONEY CONTROLS EVEN IF  
LOWERS OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE BY MID-APRIL.

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JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS GOJ PLEDGED MONDAY TO STIMULATE ECONOMY BY ISSUING 65 PERCENT OF JFY PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS IN FIRST HALF; 27 BILLION DOL FJY TOTAL INCLUDES PUBLIC WORKS CARRY OVER.

JOC TOKYO NOTES PUBLIC CORPORATION WORKERS UNIONS (KOROKYO) MONDAY DECIDED LEAD OFF ANNUAL SPRING WAGE DRIVE THURSDAY WITH NATIONWIDE SERIES OF 24-HOUR

- -  
WALKOUTS, INCLUDING NATIONAL RR, TELECOMMUNICATION, POSTAL WORKERS.

WHILE DETROIT SINGS BLUES, CSM'S FRANCIS IN TOKYO FINDS TWO AUTOMAKERS (NISSAN AND TOYOTA) "HUMMING MILDLY CHEERFUL DITTY," AS NISSAN LOOKS TO MILD RECOVERY FROM SLUMP IN HALF ENDED LAST SEPT. NISSAN SPOKESMAN CLAIMS GOOD GAS-MILEAGE, BETTER TRIM HELP DEALERS COMPETE WITH DETROIT COMPACTS.

HIDEKO TAKAYAMA IN SUN RECOUNTS GROWTH OF WESTERN FASHION DESIGN IN JAPAN.

NYT'S HALLORAN DESCRIBES KYOTO'S TRADITIONAL NISHIJIN SILK-WEAVING INDUSTRY THAT LAST YEAR PRODUCED OVER 700 MILLION DOLS WORTH OF KIMONO, OBI FOR CEREMONIAL, DRESS OCCASIONS.

#### 4. THAILAND

KUKRIT REITERATES VIEW US MUST STOP AMMO AIRLIFT TO CAMBODIA, BUT AIRLIFT FOR FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES MUST GO ON FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS (WP, WSJ). KUKRIT CONFIRMS FOR FIRST TIME THAI TROOPS HAVE FOUGHT BORDER BATTLES WITH "COMMUNIST INVASION FORCE FROM LAOS" (WSJ).

#### 5. PHILIPPINES

US, PHILIPPINES SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS MANILA MONDAY FOR LOANS TOTALING 35 MILLION DOLS, TO FINANCE RURAL ROAD, BRIDGE, ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS (CSM).

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NYT (MANILA) CITES MARCOS PRESS STATEMENT MONDAY, AFTER 3-HOUR CABINET MEETING, THAT HE INVITED ALL MOSLEM REBEL LEADERS TO CONFERENCE IN ZAMBOANGA APRIL 17; MARCOS ALSO SAID MORO NATL LIBERATION FRONT PROPOSALS NOT NEGOTIABLE, SINCE DO NOT RECOGNIZE

PHILIPPINES TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

6. INDONESIA

AFP (JAKARTA) CITES REPORTS 3,000 HOMELESS IN FLOOD IN  
INDRAMAYU REGENCY; NO CASUALTIES (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

CONSIDINE (3/21) IN BALTO N-A DATES AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT  
IN VN TO 1950 WHEN TRUMAN APPROVES SENDING A TEAM  
OF AMERICANS TO ADVISE THE FRENCH ON HOW TO RETAIN  
CONTROL. RECOUNTS HISTORY OF OUR INVOLVEMENT TILL  
NIXON EXTRICATED US AT GREAT COST.

CONSIDINE IN BALTO N-A (3/24) SAYS TO HAND THIEU A  
MOUNTAIN OF ADDITIONAL AID WOULD NOT HALT THE ENEMY'S  
ADVANCE FOR LONG. US CANNOT GET REINVOLVED IN THE  
WAR. FORESEES NO REALLY GREAT CHANGES IN LIVES OF  
ORDINARY PEOPLE WHEN REDS TAKE OVER. SUGGESTS THAT  
AFTER THIS HAK GOES THERE TO "SET UP A DETENTE."

JERRY GREENE IN NYDN (3/25) SAYS US FOREIGN POLICY  
A SHAMBLES. NIXON DOCTRINE WENT DOWN THE DRAIN WHEN  
CONGRESS STARTED SLASHING AID FUNDS. SAYS FORD MUST  
REACH AN ACCORD WITH CONGRESS BEFORE ANY MEANINGFUL  
US SECURITY POLICY ESTABLISHED.

HERBLOCK IN WASH POST SHOWS FORD TRYING TO PIN TAIL  
LABELED "CAMBODIA/VIETNAM" ONTO A DONKEY LABELED "CONGRESS."  
PRES SAYING, "IT'S A VARIATION OF AN OLD GAME --  
NOW HOLD STILL."

WSJ "CAN HARDLY BLAME" SADAT, RABIN FOR REFUSING TO  
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PLACE FUTURES IN HANDS OF MAN WHOSE PERSONAL GOOD  
FAITH UNDERMINED AT HOME BY SPREADING CHAOS IN MAKING  
FOREIGN POLICY. BELIEVES CAMBODIA, SOUTH VIETNAM EVENTS  
UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED PART IN STALLING WHATEVER "MOMENTUM  
TOWARD PEACE" HAK MANAGED PROMOTE IN ME, WHERE MUCH  
OF HIS PRESTIGE BASED ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH NVN. SPELL  
BROKEN AS CAMBODIA NEARED COLLAPSE, NVA SURROUNDED  
HUE. BY WITHHOLDING SEA MIL AID, CONGRESS MADE ITSELF  
RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER EVENTUALLY HAPPENS THERE,  
BUT ALSO "PRACTICALLY ELIMINATED" HAK'S PERSONAL  
EFFECTIVENESS. WHILE SECSTATE'S ROLE BOUND TO END  
SOMEDAY, DEPLORES FACT CONGRESS PROVIDES NOTHING TO  
REPLACE IT.

CARTER (NYDN) SAYS HAK THINKS US ABANDONMENT OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WAS MAJOR FACTOR IN FAILURE OF HIS ME SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY TO ACHIEVE STEP-BY-STEP SETTLEMENT. HOW MUCH COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN SEA AFFECTED NEGOTIATIONS HARD TO GAUGE, BUT CARTER ALLUDES TO REPORTS HAK BELIEVES THEY AT LEAST MARGINAL FACTOR IN ISRAELI DECISION STAND

PAT ON DEMAND FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY PACT WITH EGYPT, AS ISRAELIS SEE SVN, CAMBODIA GO DOWN FOR LACK OF US MIL AID.

TYPICAL OF RASH OF SIMILAR PIECES NATIONWIDE, NYDN INTERVIEWS FORMER POW DON RANDER, CAPTURED AT HUE IN 1968 TET OFFENSIVE. QUOTES HIM SAYING: "IT REALLY ANGERS ME THAT THEY'RE GIVING UP HUE. AND I DON'T BLAME THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE. WE AMERICANS BETTER START TAKING A BETTER LOOK AT OURSELVES BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONES WHO LEFT THEM OUT ON A LIMB." IN CONTRAST, QUOTES ARMY CAPT. JOHN PARSELS, ALSO POW FOR YEARS: "I FEEL WE'VE GIVEN ENOUGH TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA... IF THE PEOPLE DON'T SUPPORT US BY NOW, IT'S TOO LATE."

WSTAR'S NOYES (MAR 23) STATES PRES EMBARKED ON "FUTILE EXERCISE" WARNING NATION OF DANGERS OF ISOLATIONISM -- CONDITION HE DESCRIBED IN MOST RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE "HAS EXISTED NOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS" AND ISOLATIONISM IS PREVAILING SENTIMENT IN COUNTRY AND CONGRESS TODAY. UNCLASSIFIED

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DECLARES SIMPLE FACT IS US "CANNOT PLAY THE ROLE OF A GREAT POWER" AS IN PAST, AND NO FOREIGN STATESMAN "IN HIS RIGHT SENSES" COULD RELY ON US AT THIS POINT REGARDLESS OF ANY COMMITMENT. BELIEVES CURE REQUIRES NEW ELECTION, OF ADMIN BACKED BY SIZABLE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS, AND NO RESPONSIBLE ADMIN LIKELY PURSUE COURSE OF ISOLATIONISM BEING FORCED ON US TODAY. BUT WARNS ONLY ELECTORATE CAN RESTORE LEADERSHIP NATION NEEDS SO BADLY.

SUN MAINTAINS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AID FOR SVN AND FOR CAMBODIA ARE THAT SAIGON IS ALLY WITH SOME CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, WHILE "CORRUPT AND INEPT" GKR'S OWN FAILINGS HAVE BROUGHT IT TO EDGE OF EXTINCTION. CONCEDES ARVN HAS WASTED AMMO PRODIGIOUSLY, BUT "LITTLE CAN BE SAID FOR GROUNDING AN ALLY'S PLANES" (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LOOKING BACK OVER VN STORY, CSM'S HARSCH SAYS WHILE CANNOT BE PROVED YUGOSLAV EXAMPLE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED HAD US BACKED HO CHI MINH IN 1945 AS WE BACKED TITO, "CHANCES ARE REASONABLY GOOD" THIS WOULD HAVE OCCURRED. INDOCHINA TODAY WOULD PRESUMABLY BE COMMUNIST,



BUT INDEPENDENT OF BOTH PEKING, MOSCOW, AND NO CIVIL WAR, NO BLOODSHED (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LIPPMAN (IN WP) DECLARES CANNOT BE SAID

WITH CERTAINTY THAT GVN'S PULLOUT FROM HIGHLANDS IS DESPERATION MOVE OR ACT OF PANIC. POSSIBLY IT REPRESENTS PSYCHOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR VIETS, WHO HAVE CONTINUED ASSUMING US WOULD COME TO THEIR AID IF NECESSARY. IF THEY HAVE DISABUSED SELVES OF THAT NOTION, CURRENT MIL MOVES MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO READJUST TO REALITY AND PREPARE TO DEFEND ONLY WHAT THEY CAN HOLD ON THEIR OWN (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S SCHANBERG, IN PP, POINTS TO INSTANCES OF ADMIN CREDIBILITY GAP RE INDOCHINA AID SUM NEEDED. RECALLS DOS' HABIB, WHEN IN PP RECENTLY, DIRECTED ADMIN AID BOOKS OPENED TO NEWSMEN; BUT "BOOKS HAVE NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN OPENED HERE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE IN WASHINGTON" WHERE DOD DOES MIL AID AUDITING. THEREFORE, REMAINS IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUTSIDER TO KNOW STATE OF AFFAIRS. NEVERTHELESS, APPEARS CLEAR ADMIN EXAGGERATING IMMINENCE OF CRISIS, APPARENTLY TO INDUCE CONGRESS VOTE MORE MONEY, QUICKLY. ASSERTS VIRTUALLY NOTHING DOD HAS SAID ABOUT CAMBODIAN AID HAS SQUARED WITH EVIDENCE IN PP (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S MIDDLETON SAYS VIEW OF US MIL ANALYSTS IS THAT NVN WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN EXPANDING SOUTHERN OFFENSIVE IN NEXT FIVE WEEKS INTO ULTIMATE BATTLE FOR SAIGON, OR WAITING UNTIL NEXT YEAR (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WICKER (NYT) FEELS SINCE RECENT GVN WITHDRAWALS PLACE ITS FORCES IN STRONGEST POSITIONS, MIGHT BE USEFUL IF US WERE TO PERSUADE HIM THIS IS OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN REAL PEACE TALKS WITH NVN. BUT THIEU UNLIKELY TAKE OPPORTUNITY IF HE GETS NEW US ASSURANCES HE CAN HAVE RESOURCES TO FIGHT ON FOR OLD OBJECTIVES (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S RUSSELL BAKER QUIPS THAT SUGGESTION OF ADMIN'S TRUE SENSE OF CAMBODIA'S VALUE COMES IN DISCLOSURE US SPENT 350 MILLION ON SALVAGING SOVIET SUB, WHILE CAMBODIAN WORTH (222 MILLION) IS EQUAL TO 63 PERCENT OF THAT -- "NO WONDER LON NOL IS PACKING."

8. CHINA

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK, SEES PEKING "DISPLAYING SIGNS OF

NVN EXPANSIONISM; CHINESE KNOW THEY CAN'T ENTICE GENIE  
BACK INTO BOTTLE, SO TRYING BEST TO RESTRAIN HIM.  
RECENT PRC STATEMENTS ON IMPENDING, FORMAL COMMUNIST  
VICTORY IN CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR LACK OF  
VICTORY IN CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN NOTABLE FOR LACK OF  
ENTHUSIASM.

LAT'S KIRSCH CITES PRESENT EDITION OF ROSS KOEN'S "THE  
CHINA LOBBY IN AMERICAN POLITICS," FIRST WRITTEN 15  
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YEARS AGO AMID "MYSTERIOUS SUPPRESSION." SAYS STRONG  
PRESUMPTION THAT VERY CHINA LOBBY EXAMINED AND CRITICIZED  
IN BOOK WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESSURE BROUGHT ON MACMILLAN  
PUBLISHER. IN INTRODUCTION TO PRESENT EDITION,  
RICHARD KAGAN SAYS MORE THAN 4,000 COPIES DESTROYED BY  
ORIGINAL PUBLISHER, FEWER THAN 800 SURVIVED EFFORTS  
TO RECALL VOLUME. KIRSCH SUGGESTS BOOK DESERVES  
BEING READ, PONDERED (MAR 24). KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Date:** 16 JAN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JAN 2003 by hagers>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XC, US  
**To:** ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
MOSCOW  
TREASURY  
BIEN HOA  
CAN THO  
DANANG

HONG KONG  
NHA TRANG  
JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NKP  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
COGARD  
BUDAPEST BY POUCH  
XMT SUVA  
RANGOON

**Type:** TE

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